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(54) **MOUNTING CONFIGURATION FOR A HEAT DUCT IN AN ELECTRIC GENERATOR**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An exhaust pipe mounted heat duct in an electrical generator includes an exhaust pipe coupleable to an internal combustion engine of the electrical generator to receive exhaust therefrom, the exhaust pipe having a first support member and a second support member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct also includes a heat duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the first support member and a second component mounted to the second support member, the first component coupled to the second component to substantially surround the exhaust pipe.

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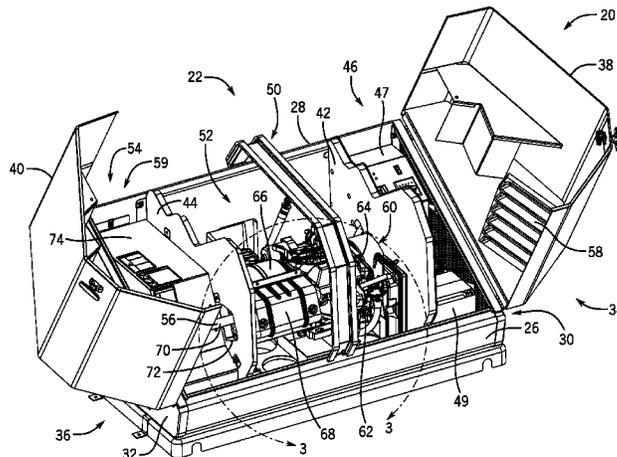
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16 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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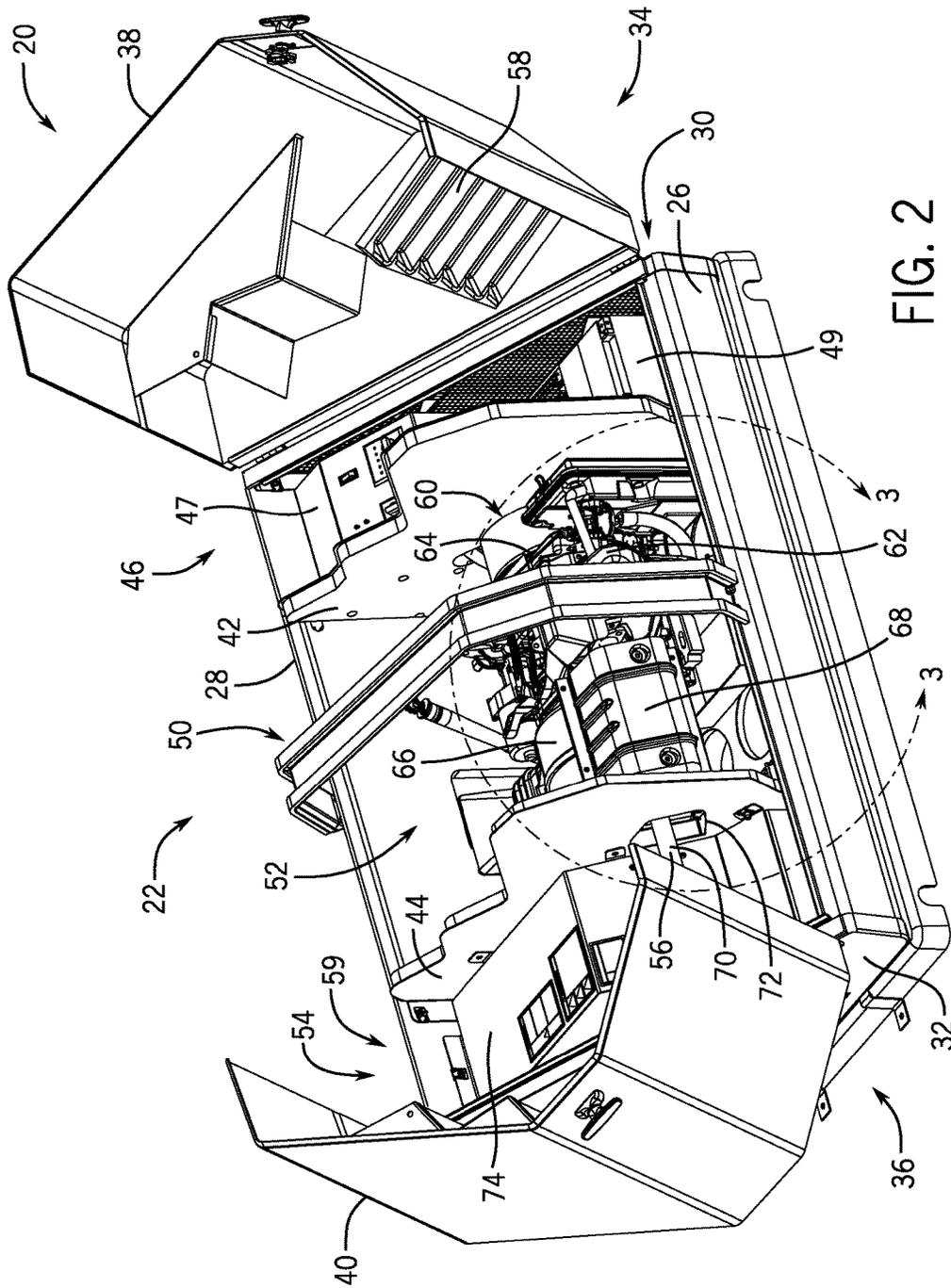
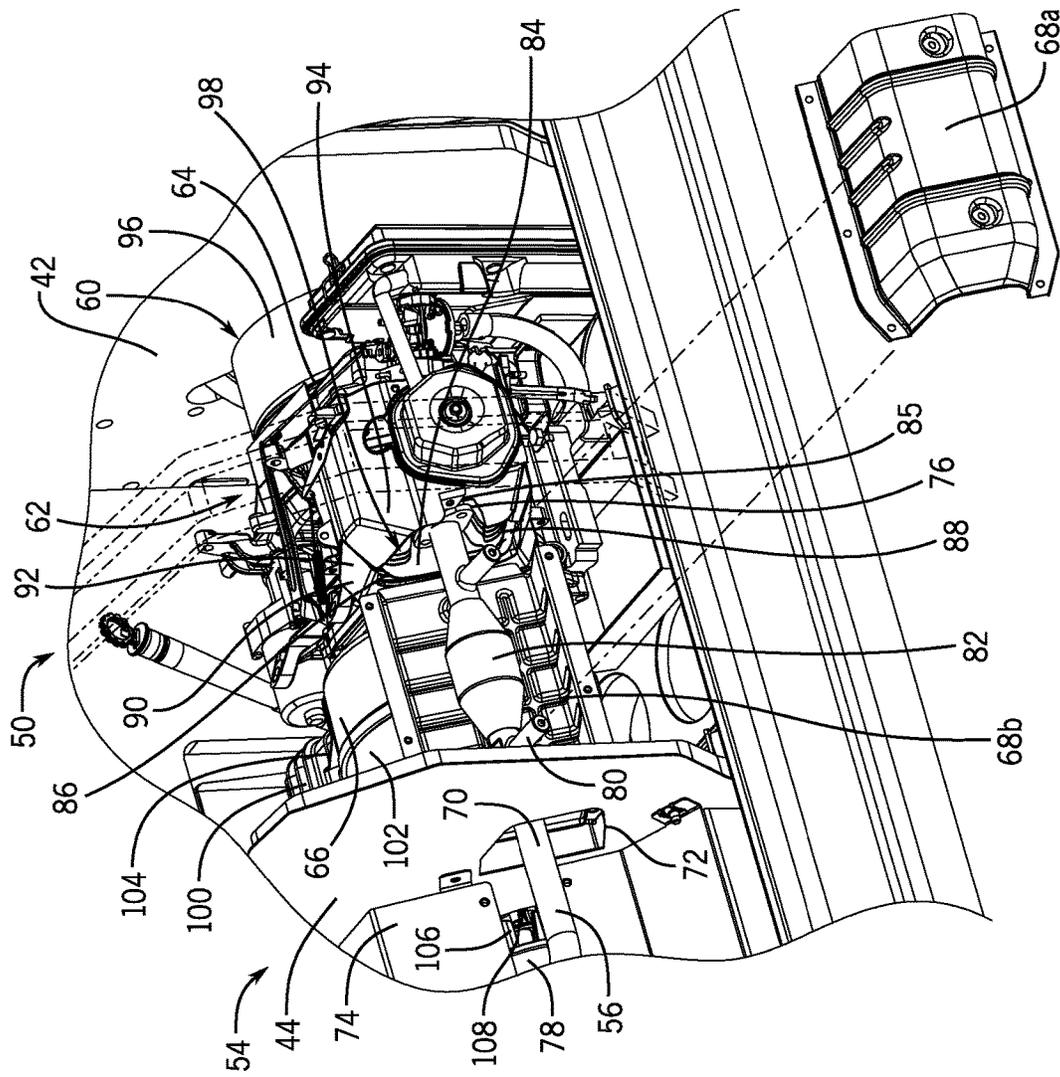


FIG. 2

FIG. 3



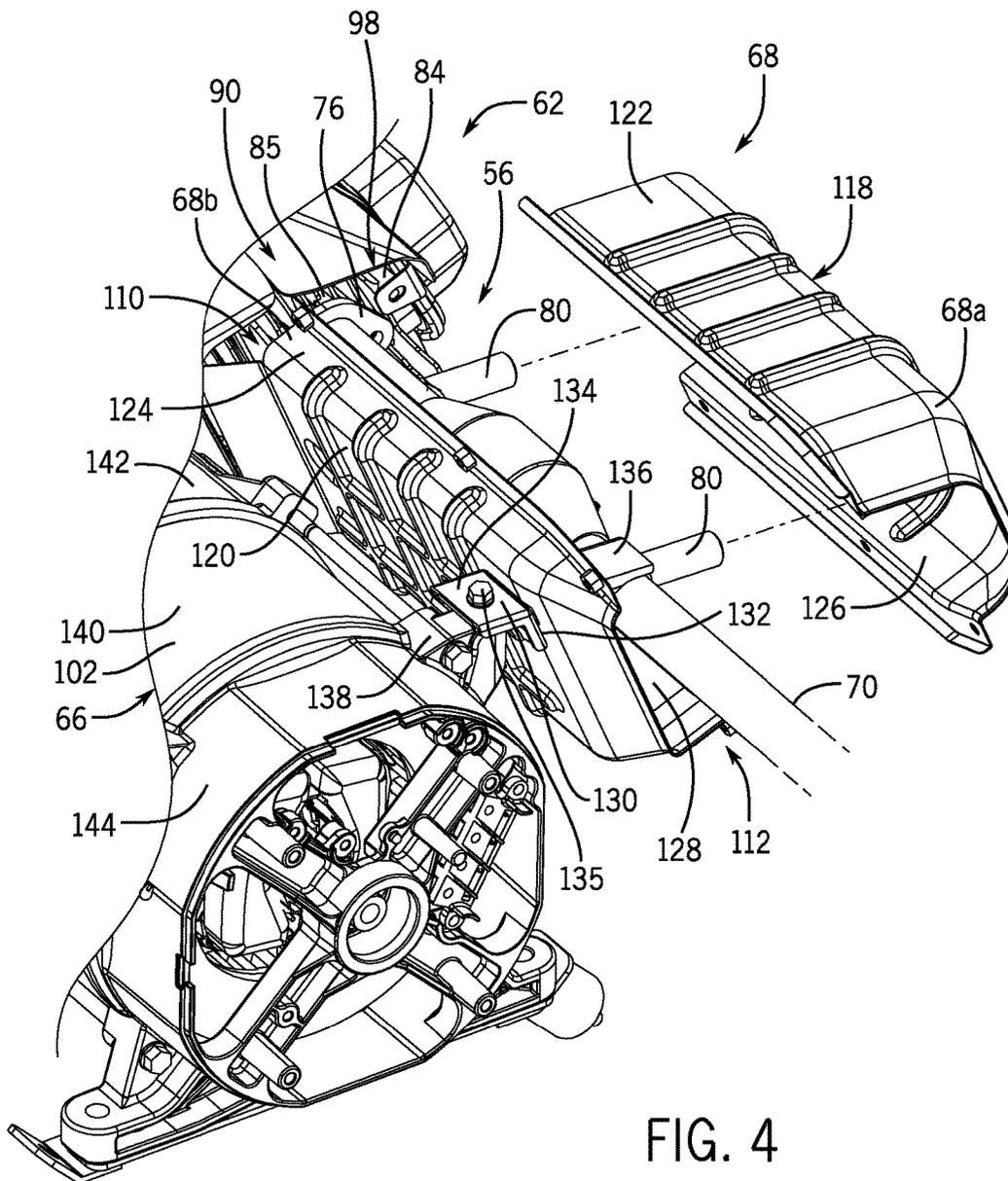
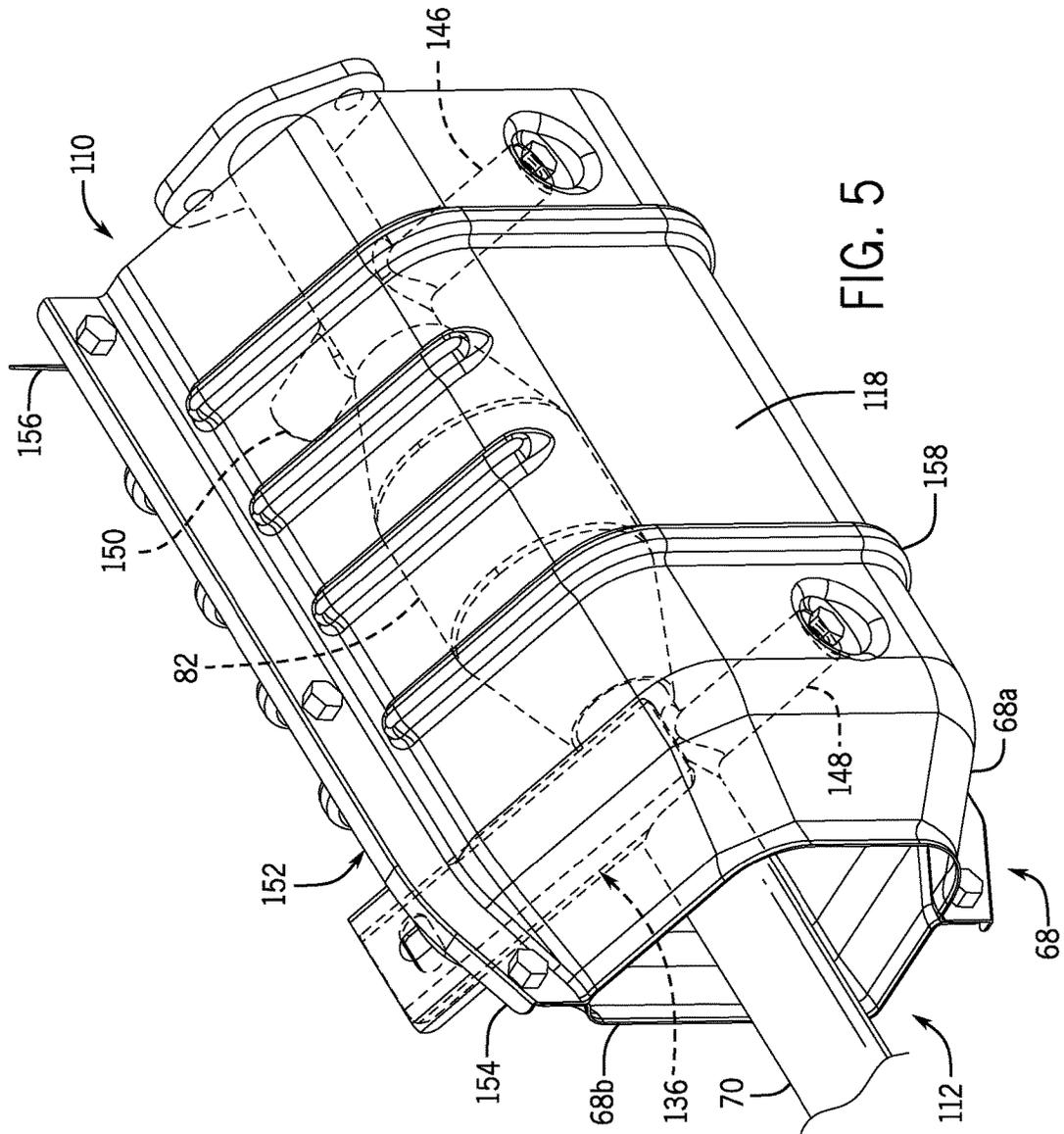


FIG. 4



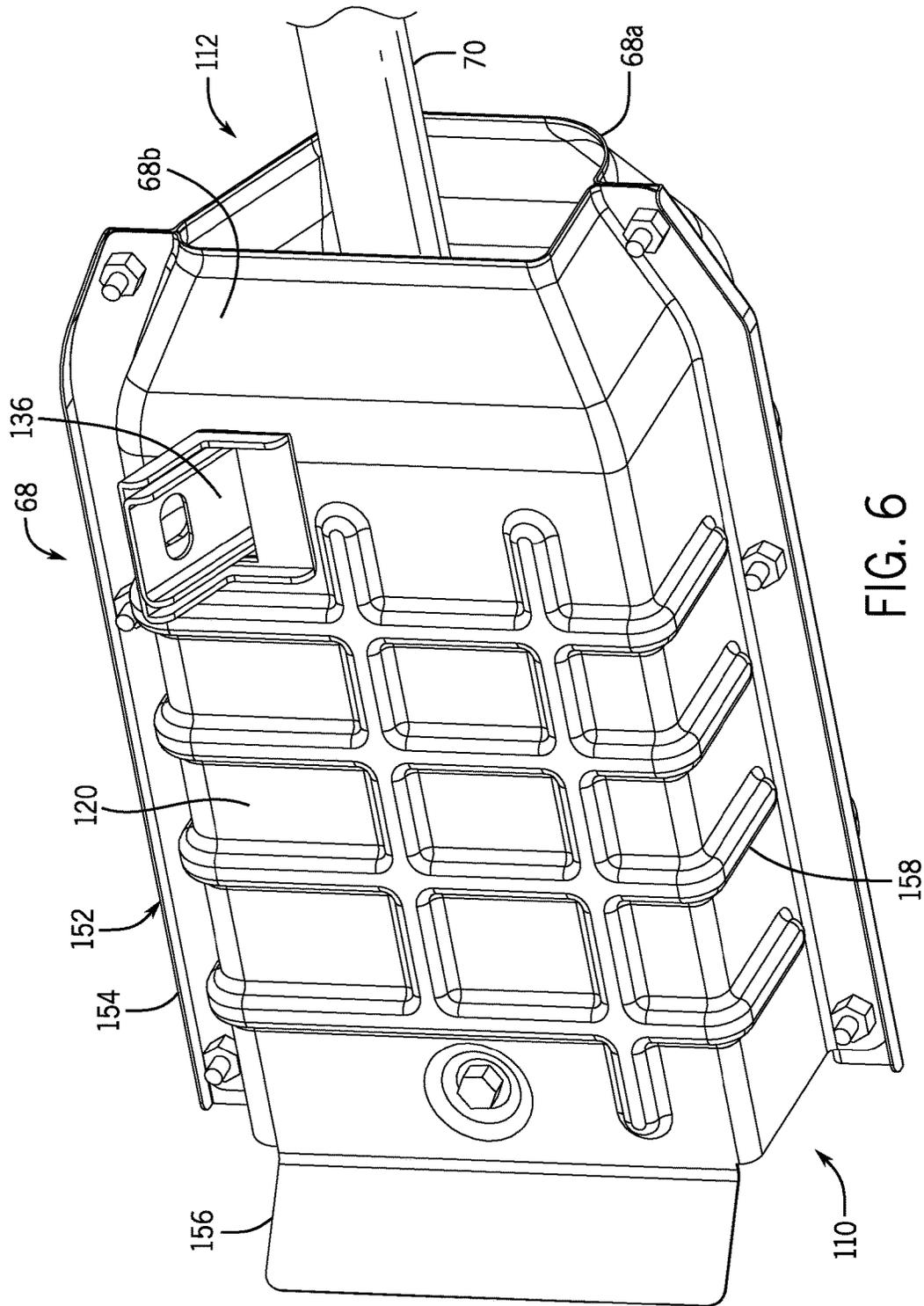


FIG. 6

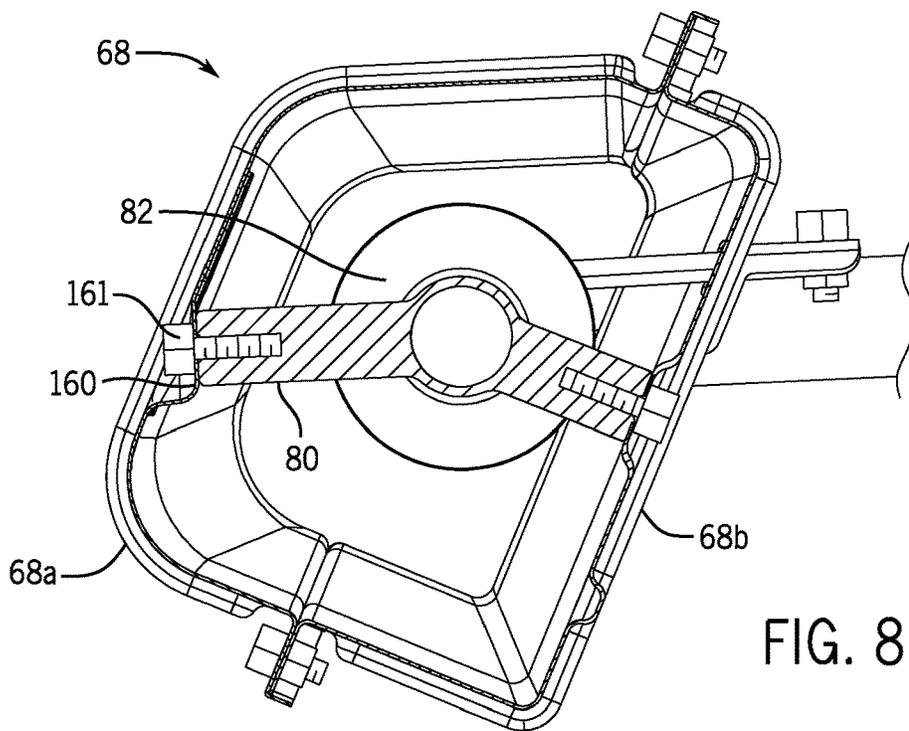
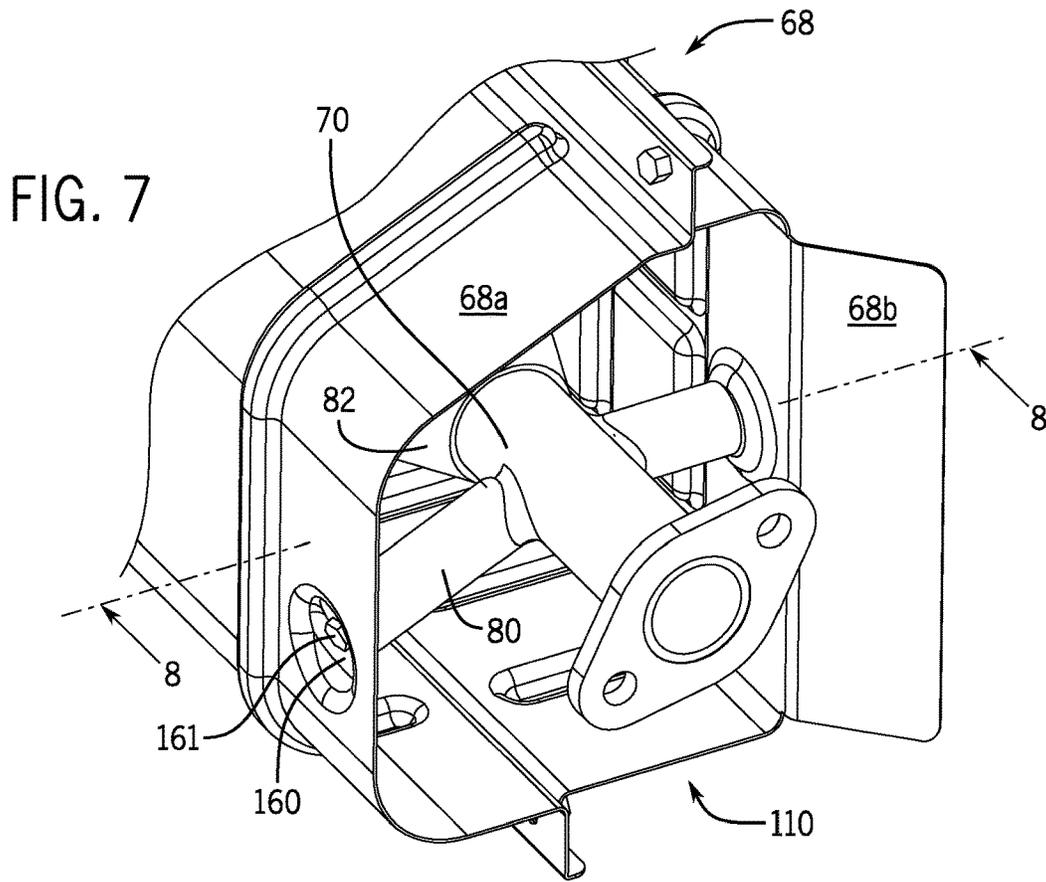


FIG. 8

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MOUNTING CONFIGURATION FOR A HEAT DUCT IN AN ELECTRIC GENERATOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Standby generators provide a convenient source of backup electricity for homes and businesses when power outages occur in the utility grid. Standby generators may comprise a prime mover that drives an alternator to produce electricity. The prime mover may be an internal combustion engine configured to operate on a liquid fuel such as diesel and gasoline or an alternative fuel such as propane and natural gas.

Standby generators are typically housed in an enclosure for convenience and protection. However, enclosures can trap heat generated from the prime mover and the alternator, causing higher operating temperatures and reduced efficiency. While a fan may be placed within the enclosure to expel heat from the engine and the alternator, large fans not only increase the noise of the generator, but can also decrease the electrical output of the generator. Heat generated within the enclosure can adversely affect the alternator performance.

An improved cooling system for standby generators would lower the temperature within the enclosure, and in particular, across the alternator, thereby improving the overall performance of the generator.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, an exhaust pipe mounted heat duct in an electrical generator includes an exhaust pipe coupleable to an internal combustion engine of the electrical generator to receive exhaust therefrom, the exhaust pipe having a first support member and a second support member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct also includes a heat duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the first support member and a second component mounted to the second support member, the first component coupled to the second component to substantially surround the exhaust pipe.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, an air duct mounting configuration in an electrical generating apparatus having an alternator is provided. The air duct mounting configuration includes an exhaust pipe operatively coupled to an internal combustion engine, the exhaust pipe having at least one connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe. The air duct mounting configuration also includes an air duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the at least one connecting member and the first and second component each having a first end and a second end along the length of the air duct, wherein the first ends are coupled together and the second ends are coupled together such that the air duct assembly surrounds the exhaust pipe forming a cooling air path between the air duct and exhaust pipe along a length of the alternator in the electrical generating apparatus.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a method of assembling an air duct for a generator includes providing a multi-chamber generator enclosure, an engine within the enclosure, and an alternator driven by the engine and positioned in at least one of the chambers. The method also includes providing an exhaust system for the engine having a first connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust and providing an air duct assembly comprising

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an outer section and an inner section, the outer section coupleable to the inner section to form an enclosure through which the exhaust system extends. The method further includes coupling the inner section to the first connecting member of the exhaust system, coupling the exhaust system operatively to the engine so that the exhaust system extends from the engine through the at least one chamber having the alternator, and coupling the outer section to the inner section so that the air duct substantially surrounds the exhaust system in the at least one chamber having the alternator to create a cooling air path between the exhaust system and the air duct.

Various other features and advantages will be made apparent from the following detailed description and the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The drawings illustrate preferred embodiments presently contemplated for carrying out the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front, left side perspective view of a generator incorporating the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the generator of FIG. 1 with doors of the enclosure in an open position.

FIG. 3 is a detailed partial perspective view of the generator of FIG. 2 taken along line 3-3 with a heat shield exploded therefrom.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view from an end of the generator depicting an alternator and exhaust system of the generator with a heat shield exploded off the exhaust.

FIG. 5 is a front top perspective view of a heat management system of the generator.

FIG. 6 is a back bottom perspective view of the heat management system of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is a top perspective view of an inlet to the heat management system of FIGS. 5 and 6.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the heat management system of FIGS. 5-7 taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The operating environment of the invention is described with respect to a home or business standby generator. However, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention is equally applicable for use with portable or other generators. Moreover, the invention will be described with respect to heat and air flow management within an enclosure for a generator. However, one skilled in the art will further appreciate that the invention is equally applicable for use with respect to heat and air flow management within an enclosure having a heat generating prime mover, such as an internal combustion engine.

Referring to FIG. 1, a standby generator 20 is shown, according to embodiments of the invention. The standby generator 20 couples to an electrical distribution panel of a building and is configured to provide a backup supply of electricity in case power outages occur in the utility grid. The standby generator 20 has a prime mover that drives an alternator to produce electrical power. The prime mover may comprise an internal combustion engine having a crankshaft operatively coupled to a shaft of the alternator. The generator and alternator are referred to as an engine-generator set.

In accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the standby generator 20 has an enclosure 22 to provide protection against weather and to insulate noise

emanating from the generator. The enclosure 22 has a rectangular base 24 to support an engine-generator set. A front wall 26 and a back wall 28 extend vertically from the base 24 along the length of the enclosure 22. A first side wall 30 located on the right side and a second side wall 32 located on the left side extend vertically from the base 24 at a respective first end 34 and second end 36 of the enclosure 22. Together, the base 24, first and second side walls 30 and 32, and the front and back walls 26 and 28 form an enclosure frame 37. The enclosure 22 also has a first door 38 and a second door 40 that cover the enclosure 22 when the doors are closed. In one embodiment of the invention, a generator has an enclosure 22 comprising a frame assembly 37 and a pair of opposing, substantially symmetrical doors 38, 40 enclosing the frame 37 on a top side of the generator.

Referring to FIG. 2, standby generator 20 is shown with a first door 38 and second door 40 in an open position, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The standby generator 20 may be separated into three chambers by a first partition wall 42 and a second partition wall 44 that extend across the enclosure 22 from the front wall 26 to the back wall 28. A control chamber 46 is located between the first side wall 30 and the first partition wall 42. The control chamber 46 houses a control system 47 to operate the generator, an air filter to filter intake air to the engine, and a battery 49 for starting the engine, as well as other ancillary components. A power train chamber 50 is located between the first partition wall 42 and the second partition wall 44 to house the engine-generator set 52 and related components. An exhaust chamber 54 is located between the second partition wall 44 and the second side wall 32. The exhaust chamber 54 houses exhaust system components 56 and other ancillary components and ejects exhaust to the environment.

The control chamber 46 receives cooling air from the environment through a first set of louvers 58 in the first door 38 to provide an inlet for the cooling air. The louvers 58 provide cooling air to cool the control system 47 and other components within control chamber 46 and direct air to the power train chamber 50 through openings 60 in the first partition wall 42. The openings 60 are adjacent the internal combustion engine 62 and an engine fan 64 that drives the cooling air through the openings 60 and over the engine 62. The engine fan 64 provides a driving force to pull air into the control chamber 46 from the environment and/or a separate fan may be located in the control chamber 46. The control chamber 46 also insulates noise that may emanate through the openings 60 in the first partition wall 42.

The power train chamber 50 houses the engine-generator set 52 which preferably includes an internal combustion engine 62 and an alternator 66 driven by the internal combustion engine 62. The internal combustion engine 62 may include one or more cylinders with each cylinder having a piston slidably positioned within each cylinder. Combustible fuel is provided to each cylinder through a respective intake valve that is then compressed and ignited causing reciprocal motion of the pistons. The reciprocal motion of the pistons is converted to rotational motion of a crankshaft. The crankshaft is coupled to an alternator shaft to drive the alternator 66 and provide electrical energy for distribution from the standby generator 20.

In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the engine-generator set 52 has a horizontal shaft arrangement and is positioned so that the internal combustion engine 62 is located toward the first end 34 of the enclosure 22 from the alternator 66. The engine fan 64 is driven by the crankshaft and faces the control chamber 46. The engine fan 64 pulls air through the first partition wall 42 to cool the engine 62 and

blows the air through a heat duct assembly 68 into the exhaust chamber 54. The alternator 66 may have an exhaust fan driven by the alternator shaft and located opposite the internal combustion engine 62. The exhaust fan pulls cooling air axially through the alternator 66 and drives it into the exhaust chamber 54. In one embodiment of the invention, the heat duct assembly 68 may direct cooling air expelled from the engine 62 into the exhaust chamber 54 so that it bypasses the exhaust fan to reduce fan size and power consumption. Accordingly, the heat duct assembly 68 may be in a generator having an enclosure 22 with multiple chambers to separate components and manage heat transfer therein.

The exhaust chamber 54 houses exhaust system components 56 and receives expelled cooling air from the alternator 66 and internal combustion engine 62 before venting the exhaust to the environment. The second partition wall 44 may have openings for receiving the expelled cooling air from the alternator 66 and the internal combustion engine 62. The exhaust chamber 54 may also house an exhaust fan which may extend through one of the openings in the second partition wall 44. The exhaust chamber 54 may allow exhaust to dissipate within the chamber before expelling the exhaust safely to the environment. The cooling air may be expelled to the environment through openings in the chamber walls. As shown in FIG. 1, a second set of louvers 59 are provided in the second door 40 to provide openings to expel the cooling air, and/or such vents may be located in the rear wall 28, as show in FIG. 2. The exhaust chamber 54 also insulates noise emanating from the engine 62 and alternator 66.

The exhaust system 56 may have an exhaust pipe 70 for the internal combustion engine 62 which may extend through one of the openings 72 in the second partition wall 44. The exhaust pipe 70 is coupled to the internal combustion engine 62 to remove combustion gases and may deliver the combustion gases to a muffler located within a muffler box 74. The muffler box 74 is preferably located in the lower back corner of the exhaust chamber 54 and may have an opening in the front for the exhaust pipe 70. The exhaust pipe 70 may make a ninety degree bend before entering the muffler box 74 so that cooling air from the engine 62 can bypass the muffler box 74 to exit through the side of the enclosure 22. The muffler box 74 may prevent combustion gases from filling the exhaust chamber 54 and direct exhaust out the back of the enclosure 22 and away from operators at the front.

Referring now to FIG. 3, a detailed view of a section taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2 shows a power train chamber 50 with a portion of the heat duct assembly 68 as removed from the exhaust system 56, according to an embodiment of the invention. The exhaust system 56 couples to the internal combustion engine 62 to remove exhaust gases after combustion. The exhaust system 56 may have an exhaust pipe 70 with a mounting flange 76 for mounting to the internal combustion engine 62. The exhaust pipe 70 extends outward from the engine 62 in the direction of the exhaust chamber 54 and extends through an opening 72 in the second partition wall 44 to the exhaust chamber 54. Within the exhaust chamber 54, the exhaust pipe 70 may make a ninety degree bend to enter the muffler box 74. A muffler 78 is located within the muffler box 74 and couples to the exhaust pipe 70. As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the exhaust pipe 70 may have connecting members 80 extending radially from the pipe for coupling the heat duct portion 68a to the pipe within the power train chamber 50. The exhaust system 56 may have an exhaust component 82 which may comprise a resonator

chamber, catalytic converter, muffler, expansion chamber or a heat sink, and the exhaust component **82** may be located within the power train chamber and surrounded by the heat duct assembly **68**.

The exhaust system **56** couples to a cylinder head **84** of the internal combustion engine **62**. The cylinder head **84** is coupled to a cylinder block **86** and the cylinder head **84** may have an exhaust port to expel exhaust gases generated within the cylinders. The cylinder head **84** has a mounting flange **85** around the exhaust port that mates with the mounting flange **76** of the exhaust pipe **70**. The cylinder block **86** and cylinder head **84** may have cooling fins **88** located around their periphery for dissipating heat generated during combustion. The engine **62** may have engine covers **90** comprising a cylinder block cover **92** and a cylinder head cover **94**. The engine covers **90** may have a first opening facing the first end of the enclosure and a second opening facing the second end of the enclosure to provide an inlet and an outlet for cooling air.

As best shown in FIG. 3, the internal combustion engine **62** may have an engine fan **64** that drives cooling air through the inlet and outlet in the engine covers. The engine fan **64** is driven by the crankshaft and is located on the opposite side of the engine **62** from the alternator **66**. The engine fan **64** may be positioned within an opening **60** in the first partition wall **42**, and a shroud **96** may be coupled to the first partition wall **42** to surround the engine fan **64** and define the opening **60**. The engine fan **64** may create a first stream of air within the enclosure **22** that is driven from the control chamber **46** within the engine covers **90** and over the cooling fins **88** to cool the engine **62**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may be located adjacent the cooling air outlet **98** to direct the first stream of air from the engine **62** into the exhaust chamber **54**. The heat duct assembly **68** may be located within the power train chamber **50** and may extend from the internal combustion engine **62** to the exhaust chamber **54**. The heat duct assembly **68** may provide a heat shield for the exhaust pipe **70** to reduce heat transfer from the pipe into the power train chamber **50**. The heat duct assembly **68** may direct the first stream of air over the exhaust pipe **70** to cool the pipe. The heat duct assembly **68** may reduce the amount hot air from the engine **62** circulating within the power train chamber **50** so that components within the chamber operate at cooler temperatures. In one embodiment of the invention, the heat duct assembly **68** may direct heat from the engine **62** away from the alternator **66** so that the alternator operates at cooler temperatures.

The power train chamber **50** may have an air duct **100** for supplying cooling air to the alternator **66**. The alternator **66** may be located in an alternator housing **102** with an air passage **104** for receiving the cooling air. The air passage **104** may be coupled to the air duct **100** that leads to an opening in the back wall of the enclosure **22** to receive cooling air from the environment. The cooling air may be drawn into the alternator housing **102** by the exhaust fan **106**. The exhaust fan **106** may be driven by the alternator shaft and be located on the opposite side of the alternator **66** from the engine **62**. The exhaust fan **106** may create a second stream of air within the enclosure **22** by drawing cooling air in through the air duct **100** and axially through the alternator **66** to cool the alternator **66**. The second stream of air may be expelled into the exhaust chamber **54** through an opening **108** in the second partition wall **44**, and the exhaust fan **106** may extend into the exhaust chamber **54** through the opening **108**.

Referring to FIG. 4, a more detailed top side view shows portions of the generator disassembled. The heat duct assembly **68** includes portions **68a** and **68b**. An inlet **110** and an outlet **112** are on opposite ends of the exhaust pipe **70** so that the inlet **110** is in line with the cooling air outlet **98** of the engine covers **90**. The heat duct assembly **68** comprises first component **68a** and second component **68b** that couple together to surround the exhaust pipe **70**. The heat duct assembly **68** has a front surface **118** as part of the first component **68a** and a back surface **120** as part of the second component **68b**. The first component **68a** and the second component **68b** each has a first side piece **122**, **124** and a second side piece **126**, **128**, respectively, that extend from the respective front surface **118** and back surface **120** along the length of the heat duct assembly **68**. The first side pieces **122**, **124** mate together and the second side pieces **126**, **128** mate together so that the first component **68a** and the second component **68b** encircle the exhaust pipe **70**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may be located near the front of the enclosure **22** because the internal combustion engine **62** may be tilted toward the front of the enclosure **22** for accessibility to the cylinder head **84**. Accordingly, the heat duct assembly **68** may be positioned in front of the alternator **66** and may be oriented on the exhaust system **56** so that the back surface **120** faces the alternator **66**. The back surface **120** may be evenly spaced from the alternator **66** so that the first side piece **124** and second side piece **128** along the back surface **120** are equal distance from the alternator shaft. The front surface **118** of the heat duct assembly **68** may be parallel to the back surface **120** and face the upper front end of the enclosure **22**.

The first component **68a** may have a first side piece **122** that extends horizontally from the front surface **118** and a second side piece **126** that extends perpendicular from the front surface **118**. The second component **68b** may have a first side piece **124** and a second side piece **128** that extend perpendicular from the back surface **120**. The corners between the side pieces and the respective front surface **118** and back surface **120** may be rounded and the corners of the first component **68a** may have a larger radius than the corners of the second component **68b**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may have a bracket **130** extending outwards from the back surface **120** for coupling the duct to the alternator housing **102**. The bracket **130** is preferably angled with a first arm **132** mounted to the back surface **120** and a second arm **134** that extends horizontally from the back surface **120** when the duct is mounted on the exhaust. The second arm **134** has an opening for receiving a fastener **135** to couple to the alternator housing **102**. The bracket **130** may have edges that extend perpendicular to the first arm **132** and second arm **134** for added structural integrity.

The bracket **130** and the back surface **120** have openings through which an exhaust support **136** extends. The openings may be slots and the exhaust support **136** may be a bracket that couples the exhaust pipe **70** to the alternator housing **102**. The exhaust support **136** extends to the alternator housing **102** next to the second arm **134** so that the exhaust support **136** and second arm **134** are coupled to the alternator housing **102** at the same location. In another embodiment, the bracket **130** may be positioned adjacent the opening in the back surface **120** without an opening in the first arm **132**.

The exhaust support **136** preferably extends outward from the exhaust pipe **70** and couples to the alternator housing **102**. The exhaust support **136** may be a straight bracket with a first end that mounts tangent on the exhaust pipe and the

second end may have an opening for a fastener **135** to couple the support to the alternator housing **102**. The exhaust support **136** may have edges that are bent perpendicular to the main surface for added strength. The edges may extend along the length of the exhaust support **136** but short of the first end so the surface of the support may couple to the exhaust pipe **70**. The exhaust support **136** may extend through the slot provided in the second component **68b** and extend to the alternator **66**.

The exhaust support **136** may extend horizontally and adjacent the heat duct bracket **130** so that the exhaust support **136** and the heat duct bracket **130** may be coupled together to the alternator housing **102**. The exhaust support **136** may fit within the edges of the heat duct bracket **130** and lie flush against the heat duct bracket **130**. The second end of the exhaust support **136** may have an opening provided for receiving the same fastener **135** used to couple the heat duct bracket **130** to the alternator housing **102**. The opening in the exhaust support **136** may comprise a first slot and the opening in the heat duct bracket **130** may comprise a second slot. The first and second slots may be positioned at right angles to each other to ensure sufficient alignment in the respective openings for receiving the fastener **135**.

The exhaust support **136** and the heat duct bracket **130** may be coupled together to an alternator bracket **138**. The alternator bracket **138** may be integral to one used to hold the alternator housing **102** together. The housing may include a stator cover **140** between a crankcase cover **142** and an end cover **144**. The crankcase cover **142** and the end cover **144** may have brackets that receive bolts to clamp the housing together. A bracket on the end cover **144** may be configured to receive an additional fastener **135** to couple the heat duct bracket **130** and the exhaust support **136** to the alternator housing **102**. The alternator bracket **138** may have a horizontal flat surface that mates flush with the heat duct bracket **130** and the exhaust support **136**.

Referring now to FIGS. **5** and **6**, heat duct assembly **68** is shown coupled to exhaust pipe **70**, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The exhaust pipe **70** preferably has supporting members that couple the heat duct assembly **68** to the exhaust pipe **70**. A first supporting member **146** and a third supporting member **148** may extend outward from the exhaust pipe **70** horizontally to the front surface **118** of the heat duct assembly **68**. The first supporting member **146** and third supporting member **148** may be located on either side of an exhaust component **82** which may comprise a resonator chamber, catalytic converter, muffler, expansion chamber or a heat sink. A second supporting member **150** may extend outward from the exhaust pipe **70** to the back surface **120** of the heat duct assembly **68**. The second supporting member **150** may be located upstream of the exhaust component **82** and may extend toward the alternator **66** so that it is perpendicular to the back surface **120**. The first supporting member **146** and third supporting member **148** may couple to the first component **68a** while the second supporting member **150** and the exhaust support **136**, also referred to as a fourth supporting member, couple to the second component **68b**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may be oblong having an inlet **110** and an outlet **112** at the ends to direct the first stream of air into the exhaust chamber **54**. The heat duct assembly **68** may have a first component **68a** and a second component **68b** that couple to each other along two sides of the duct to fit around the exhaust pipe **70**. The first component **68a** and second component **68b** may couple together by a first and second pair of mating flanges **152** located along the length of the duct. Each component may have a first flange on a first

side and a second flange on a second side of the duct that mate with a corresponding flange of the other component. The flanges **152** may comprise a flat surface extending outwards from the components and one of each mating pair may have lip **154** along the outer edge to guide the mating flange into position. The flanges **152** may have openings for receiving fasteners and a nut or a boss with a tapped hole may be affixed to the openings to receive a bolt as the fastener.

The heat duct assembly **68** may fit around the exhaust pipe **70** so that the inlet **110** corresponds to the cooling air outlet **98** of the engine covers **90**. The heat duct assembly **68** may be mounted on the exhaust pipe **70** so that the inlet **110** is near the cooling air outlet **98** of the engine **62** and spaced apart from the engine **62** so that the heat duct assembly **68** does not vibrate against the engine **62**. The first component **68a** preferably has an inlet profile that matches the outlet opening in the cylinder head cover **94**. The second component **68b** preferably has a directional member **156** that extends beyond the inlet **110** and flares outward to direct the first stream of air into the heat duct assembly **68**. The directional member **156** may extend from the back surface **120** substantially to the cylinder block cover **92** and extends along the width of the back surface **120**. In another embodiment of the invention, the inlet **110** of the heat duct assembly may couple directly to one or more of the cylinder block cover **92** and cylinder head cover **94**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may have an outlet profile that corresponds to the profile of the opening **72** (FIG. **2**) in the second partition wall **44**. The outlet **112** may be tapered into the duct which may aid in directing the first stream of air into the exhaust chamber **54**. The heat duct assembly **68** may be coupled to the exhaust pipe **70** so that the outlet **112** is spaced apart from the opening **72** (FIG. **2**) in the second partition wall **44**. In other embodiments of the invention, the heat duct assembly **68** is coupled to the exhaust pipe **70** so that the outlet **112** is flush with the second partition wall **44** or extends through the opening **72** (FIG. **2**) in the second partition wall **44**. In some embodiments of the invention, the heat duct assembly **68** may have a uniform profile along its length and may comprise a tube of circular, triangular, rectangular or other cross sectional shapes.

The first component **68a** and the second component **68b** may be made of sheet metal. The first component **68a** and the second component **68b** may be formed by stamping the sheet metal to form the contours of the components. The sheet metal may include strengthening ribs **158** extending from the surface of the heat duct assembly **68**. The strengthening ribs **158** may comprise a V-shaped or radiused indentation formed by an embossing process. The strengthening ribs **158** may extend from the first of the flanges **152** to the second of the flanges **152**, and the strengthening ribs **158** may extend along the length of the components **68a**, **68b**. The strengthening ribs **158** along the length of the components **68a**, **68b** may intersect the strengthening ribs **158** along the width of the components **68a**, **68b**.

Referring to FIGS. **7** and **8**, opposite ends of the exhaust and heat duct assembly is shown. An exhaust pipe **70** may have one or more connecting members **80** extending radially outwards from the pipe for coupling the heat duct assembly **68** to the exhaust pipe **70**, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The exhaust pipe **70** has connecting members **80** at one or more locations along the length of the exhaust pipe **70** to support the inlet **110** and outlet **112** of the heat duct assembly **68**. The connecting members **80** may comprise rods having a first end welded to the exhaust pipe and a second end fastened to the heat duct assembly **68**. The

second end may have a flat face perpendicular to the axis of the rod and a tapped hole for receiving a bolt. The connecting members **80** may also have sufficient length so that the heat duct assembly **68** fits around an exhaust component **82**.

The heat duct assembly **68** may have indentations **160** along the surface that provide fastening locations to couple the heat duct assembly **68** to the connecting members **80**. The indentations **160** create a surface parallel to the end of the support rod and have an opening for receiving a fastener **161**. The indentations **160** allow a fastener **161** to mate flush with the surface of the heat duct assembly **68** when the heat duct assembly **68** is fastened to the connecting members **80**. The indentations **160** may also provide a recess for the fastener head so that the head does not extend beyond the outer surface of the heat duct assembly **68**. The heat duct assembly **68** may comprise fasteners for coupling the heat duct assembly **68** to the exhaust pipe **70** and for coupling the first component **68a** to the second component **68b**.

Beneficially, embodiments of the invention provide a mounting configuration for a heat duct assembly used in a standby generator. The mounting configuration may provide for a heat duct assembly positioned within a generator enclosure configured to improve air flow and heat management of the generator. The mounting configuration allows the heat duct assembly to mount around an exhaust pipe so that the inlet is positioned to receive cooling air exhaust from an engine and the outlet delivers the cooling air to an exhaust chamber within the enclosure. The mounting configuration also provides for ease in assembly, manufacturing, and structural integrity. The improved heat management and air flow reduces the size requirements and power consumption of generators within the enclosure. The system allows for lower operating temperatures and increase in efficiency of the engine-generator set.

Therefore, according to one embodiment of the invention, an exhaust pipe mounted heat duct in an electrical generator includes an exhaust pipe coupleable to an internal combustion engine of the electrical generator to receive exhaust therefrom, the exhaust pipe having a first support member and a second support member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct also includes a heat duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the first support member and the second component mounted to the second support member, the first component coupled to the second component to substantially surround the exhaust pipe.

According to another embodiment of the invention, an air duct mounting configuration in an electrical generating apparatus having an alternator is provided. The air duct mounting configuration includes an exhaust pipe operatively coupled to an internal combustion engine, the exhaust pipe having at least one connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe. The air duct mounting configuration also includes an air duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the at least one connecting member and the first and second component each having a first end and a second end along the length of the air duct, wherein the first ends are coupled together and the second ends are coupled together such that the air duct assembly surrounds the exhaust pipe forming a cooling air path between the air duct and exhaust pipe along a length of the alternator in the electrical generating apparatus.

According to yet another embodiment of the invention, a method of assembling an air duct for a generator includes providing a multi-chamber generator enclosure, an engine

within the enclosure, and an alternator driven by the engine and positioned in at least one of the chambers. The method also includes providing an exhaust system for the engine having a first connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust and providing an air duct assembly comprising an outer section and an inner section, the outer section coupleable to the inner section to form an enclosure through which the exhaust system extends. The method further includes coupling the inner section to the first connecting member of the exhaust system, coupling the exhaust system operatively to the engine so that the exhaust system extends from the engine through the at least one chamber having the alternator, and coupling the outer section to the inner section so that the air duct substantially surrounds the exhaust system in the at least one chamber having the alternator to create a cooling air path between the exhaust system and the air duct.

This written description uses examples to disclose the invention, including the best mode, and also to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, including making and using any devices or systems and performing any incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they have structural elements that do not differ from the literal language of the claims, or if they include equivalent structural elements with insubstantial differences from the literal languages of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An exhaust pipe mounted heat duct in an electrical generator comprising:

an exhaust pipe coupleable to an internal combustion engine of the electrical generator to receive exhaust therefrom, the exhaust pipe having a first support member and a second support member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe; and

a heat duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the first support member and the second component mounted to the second support member, the first component coupled to the second component to substantially surround the exhaust pipe;

wherein the first and second component have openings for fasteners to couple to the respective first and second support member.

2. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1, wherein the first component and second component are coupled together at two ends to encircle the exhaust pipe and create a flow path between the exhaust pipe and the heat duct to remove expelled cooling air from the engine.

3. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 2, wherein the first component and second component comprise flanges at each end for coupling the first component to the second component.

4. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1, wherein the second component comprises a bracket for coupling to an alternator of the electrical generator.

5. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1, wherein the exhaust pipe includes a support bracket coupled to an alternator of the electrical generator, and the second component includes an opening through which the support bracket for the exhaust pipe extends.

6. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1, wherein the exhaust pipe has a third support member and a fourth support member extending outward from the exhaust pipe, and

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the first component is mounted to the third support member and the second component is mounted to the fourth support member.

7. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1 in a generator having an enclosure comprising a frame assembly and a pair of opposing, substantially symmetrical doors enclosing the frame assembly on a top side of the generator.

8. The exhaust pipe mounted heat duct of claim 1 in a generator having an enclosure with multiple chambers to separate components and manage heat transfer therein.

9. An air duct mounting configuration in an electrical generating apparatus having an alternator therein comprising:

an exhaust pipe operatively coupled to an internal combustion engine, the exhaust pipe having at least one connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe; and

an air duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the at least one connecting member and the first and second component each having a first end and a second end along the length of the air duct;

wherein the first ends are coupled together and the second ends are coupled together such that the air duct assembly surrounds the exhaust pipe forming a cooling air path between the air duct and exhaust pipe along a length of the alternator in the electrical generating apparatus;

wherein the exhaust pipe comprises a support member extending outwards from the pipe;

wherein the second component comprises an opening through which the support member extends to couple to the alternator driven by an engine;

wherein the alternator comprises a flange with an opening for receiving a fastener to couple the support member to the flange; and

wherein the second component comprises a bracket extending outward from the duct and coupled to the flange using the fastener.

10. The air duct mounting configuration of claim 9, wherein the first component and the second component each comprise flanges at the first and the second ends for coupling the first component to the second component.

11. A method of assembling an air duct for a generator comprising:

providing a multi-chamber generator enclosure, an engine within the enclosure, and an alternator driven by the engine and positioned in at least one of the chambers;

providing an exhaust system for the engine having a first connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust system;

providing an air duct assembly comprising an outer section and an inner section, the outer section coupleable to the inner section to form an enclosure through which the exhaust system extends;

coupling the inner section to the first connecting member of the exhaust system;

coupling the exhaust system operatively to the engine so that the exhaust system extends from the engine through the at least one chamber having the alternator;

coupling the outer section to the inner section so that the air duct assembly substantially surrounds the exhaust

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system in the at least one chamber having the alternator to create a cooling air path between the exhaust system and the air duct assembly; and

coupling a muffler operatively to the exhaust system in a different chamber of the multi-chamber generator enclosure than the at least one chamber having the alternator;

wherein the exhaust system further comprises a support member extending outwards from the exhaust system; and

wherein the inner section comprises an opening for receiving the support member; and

further comprising positioning the support member through the opening and fixing the support member within the at least one chamber having the alternator;

wherein the support member is coupled to the alternator; wherein the inner section comprises a bracket located adjacent the opening; and

wherein the alternator has a flange coupled to both the bracket and support member.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the outer section and inner section are coupled at two ends to encircle the exhaust system.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the outer section and inner section have a flange at each end for coupling the outer section to the inner section.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the exhaust system has a second connecting member extending outwards from the exhaust system, and

coupling the outer section to the second connecting member of the exhaust system.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the connecting members have ends that are tapped to receive fasteners and the outer and inner sections have openings to receive the fasteners, the outer and inner sections have surface indentations surrounding the openings to create a surface flush with the ends of the connecting members to support the fasteners.

16. An exhaust pipe mounted heat duct in an electrical generator comprising:

an exhaust pipe coupleable to an internal combustion engine of the electrical generator to receive exhaust therefrom, the exhaust pipe having a first support member and a second support member extending outwards from the exhaust pipe;

a heat duct assembly comprising a first component and a second component, the first component mounted to the first support member and the second component mounted to the second support member, the first component coupled to the second component to substantially surround the exhaust pipe; and

a muffler operatively coupled to the exhaust pipe downstream from the heat duct assembly;

wherein the exhaust pipe mounted heat duct is positioned in a multi-chamber generator enclosure having a partition wall separating at least two chambers; and

wherein the heat duct assembly and the muffler are positioned in separate chambers with the exhaust pipe extending through an opening in the partition wall.